

ATHANASIOS ANGELOPOULOS<sup>1</sup>  
ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

## THE HISTORY OF SERBIA: POLITICAL AND ECCLESIASTICAL (*Prof. SEP dr. Georgios Nektarios At. Lois, Hellenic Open University, Patras, 2017*)

The History of Serbia: Political and Ecclesiastical (original title: ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΣΕΡΒΙΑΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣΤΙΚΗ) published by Έννοια, Athens is a unique book in Greek bibliography covering the history of Serbia in Southeast Europe from its beginning to the present day.

The concept of unity and interconnection of the national and ecclesiastical history of the Serbian nation, permeated with noble tradition, democratic spirit, deeply rooted in Orthodox Christian beliefs, adds distinctive flavour to this impressive research. There are other studies of the history of Serbia; however, most of them are only partially comparable or relatively similar to this as they either cover only national or only ecclesiastical history of the nation. Therefore, they all lack the other aspect of history, failing to present the combined importance of the two institutions: the State and the Church. It is strange that such a compound would remain missing in our bibliography, taking into consideration its relevance for the overall consideration of this important topic, which places even greater importance on this title. Accordingly, it is no exaggeration to say that “there is no book of this proportion that includes the literature and sources as this one,” as the author stated in the introductory part of his study.

---

<sup>1</sup> athangel@auth.gr

Приказ је примљен 18. априла 2017, а прихваћен за објављивање на састанку Редакције Зборника одржаном некидатум 2017.

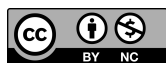
The two parts, the national and the ecclesiastical, are connected and intertwined in refined Greek language in all challenging details of the overall position and circumstances of the country and the nation, describing all their endurances, advances, wars, and sufferings.

This lengthy, 800 pages long result of great effort invested in detailed, intense and time consuming research will be found engaging and useful by all academics and students interested and involved in the studies of history, but also in the various aspects of civilization, politics, diplomacy and entrepreneurship.

The book is divided in two parts, one consisting of 12 chapters covering the national history of Serbia, and the other consisting of 11 chapters about its ecclesiastical aspects, both accompanied with dozens of illustrative colour photographs, maps, and document excerpts. The rich final section of the book provides the time catalogues, pictures of historical figures and state symbols, official documents, photographs of holy Orthodox Serbian temples, monasteries, and places of worship, as well as topographic maps of all important events endured by the Orthodox Serbs over the centuries. They all lead the reader, whether academic or layman, through the development of the national and ecclesiastical history of the nation from its beginnings, on the historical peninsula of Haimos, through the times under the Ottoman Empire, and within the present day Eastern Europe, with their close, friendly, and fruitful relations with the neighbouring Greek nation and Greek country.

It was not an easy undertaking to write a study of this proportion and depth. However, the results justify all invested efforts, as this is a unique study, not only for literature in Greek, but also for literature written in Serbian. As such, it represents an invaluable contribution to understanding the key issues that have been shaping one country, one nation, and the whole region of the Southeast Europe.

At the end of the Introduction, the author confesses that Serbia is the country he grew to love and which grew to love him in return. This title will inevitably inspire all its readers to search for the same experience. Finally, everyone with an open heart may be certain that what is given will be received in return.



Овај чланак је објављен и дистрибуира се под лиценцом Creative Commons Ауторство-Некомерцијално Међународна 4.0 (CC BY-NC 4.0 | <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>).

This paper is published and distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial International 4.0 licence (CC BY-NC 4.0 | <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>).